AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 20 as follows. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (Original) A system for loading product, comprising:

a conveyor movable in at least a first direction; and

a metering section located proximate to at an end of the conveyor, the metering section including:

a plate mechanism movable between a first position proximate the end of the conveyor and a second position remote from the conveyor; and

a door adapted to be opened to a feeder, the door at least partially supporting a predetermined amount of product and being positioned between a movable distance of the plate.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the product is at least mail pieces.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conveyor is a belt conveyor.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the belt conveyor includes cogs which form grooves thereon.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conveyor is movable towards and away from the metering section to, respectively, load product into the metering section and provide separation between the product on the conveyor and the metering section when the metering section is filled.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the door is a drop gate positioned below a radius of the conveyor at the end.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an opposing moving plate positioned at another end of the conveyor, the opposing moving plate and the plate providing a pressure on product placed therebetween.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the opposing moving plate is movable independent of the conveyor.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a sensor for sensing a position of the movable plate and activating the opening of the door.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a controller which synchronizes or coordinates movement of the movable plate, the conveyor and the door.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the controller stops movement of the conveyor and the plate and opens the door when the metering section is filled with product.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a solenoid for moving the plate.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plate is spring loaded to position the plat in an original position after release of the product..

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plate further supports the product and the door is openable to release the product.

15. (Original) A system for loading product, comprising:

a conveyor movable in a first direction and a second direction;

a plate positioned at an end of the conveyor and movable independent of the conveyor;

a second plate positioned at another end of the conveyor and moved in synchronized movement with the conveyor in at least the first direction; and

a door positioned proximate the second plate and adapted to release product to be fed to a feeder.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the product is at least mail pieces.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the conveyor is a belt conveyor having cogs which form grooves thereon, the conveyor is movable towards and away from the second plate to, respectively, load product onto the door and to provide separation of the product.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a sensor for sensing a position of the second plate and activating the opening of the door.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising a controller which synchronizes or coordinates operations of the plate, the second plate, the conveyor and the door.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~1~~15, wherein the plate is spring loaded.

21. (Original) A loading and transporting system for mail pieces, comprising:

a first movable conveyor having a plurality compartments each having a predetermined width;

a second moveable conveyor incrementally movable toward a loading area of the first movable conveyor defined by at least one of the plurality of compartments;

a holding area designed to hold a plurality of mail pieces on the second moveable conveyor;

a metering section located proximate to the holding area, the metering section including:

a plate mechanism movable between a first position and a second position remote from the second moveable conveyor; and

a door having a length substantially equal to the predetermined width of each of the plurality compartments, the door at least partially supporting a predetermined amount of mail pieces and positioned between a movable distance of the plate; and

a control which:

incrementally moves the mail pieces onto the door until a number of mail pieces substantially occupies the length of the door; and

opens the door to load the number of mail pieces to the at least one of the each of the plurality compartments.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the each of the plurality of compartments are defined by upstanding paddles.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the second moveable conveyor includes cogs forming gaps or grooves which create a defacto separation of the mail pieces as the mail pieces are deposited onto the metering section.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the holding area is defined by a first plate moving synchronously with the plate mechanism.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the plate mechanism provides a force to hold the mail pieces in a substantially upright position between the first plate and the plate mechanism.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the door is a drop gate positioned above the plurality of compartments.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the controller synchronizing movements of the second moveable conveyor, the plate mechanism and a plate remote from the plate mechanism.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the controller controls an asynchronous movement of the first conveyor with respect to a synchronous movement of the second moveable conveyor, the plate mechanism and a plate remote from the plate mechanism.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the control controls a reverse movement of the second moveable conveyor prior to opening the door to provide a defacto separation of the mail pieces in the holding area and the metering section.

30. (Original) A method for loading product, comprising the steps of:

placing product on a conveyor;

incrementing the product towards a metering section until the product placed within the metering section is substantially a same width as a compartment on a feeder conveyor; and

releasing the product from the metering section to the compartment on the feeder in a same orientation.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising determining whether the product within the metering section is sufficient to fill the compartment and, if yes, releasing the product to the compartment.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising synchronizing movement of the product, release of the product and movement of the compartment in order to align the product with the compartment prior to releasing the product into the compartment.